



**EBA**  
European Biogas Association

NEWSLETTER

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**WELCOME TO EBA WORKSHOPS!**

EBA cordially welcomes all its members to its workshop dedicated to biogas policies on 18 June in the Radisson Blue Royal Hotel in Brussels and to the study tour to Belgian biogas plants (using agricultural residues and biowaste as feedstock) on 19 June. The speakers of the workshop come from the European Commission, the European Parliament as well as the biogas and automotive industries. In the evening of the opening day (17 June) of the bioenergy conference, a dinner will be organised by AEBIOM at the European Parliament. EBA's members get the same fee discount to the conference as AEBIOM's members.

Please register [here](#) for the conference and the dinner!



EBA is also planning to organise a workshop on the destiny of biogas digestate under the revised Fertiliser Regulation and the possible End-of-Waste status. The workshop is foreseen for the beginning of May.

**EBA welcomes new members!**

- TNO, THE NETHERLANDS
- IES BIOGAS, ITALY

*Currently EBA consists of 59 members thereof 30 national associations and 29 associated members*

Join EBA's group on: **LinkedIn**

## NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GERMAN ENERGY ACT ALARMING AND DISTRACTING**

The German ministers for Environment, Peter Altmaier, and Economics, Philipp Rösler, have come up with a questionable proposal to decrease the costs caused by renewable energies. Among other things they propose to remove the so called manure bonus for biogas plants which has promoted the use of manure in anaerobic digestion and strengthened the profitability of small biogas plants. Also the flat rate payment sum for all supported plants that have been put into operation after 2000, has been proposed to be reduced retroactively by 1.5%. New plants are proposed to be suspended from the support scheme for the first five months and their flat rate payment shall be reduced by 4%. The German Biogas Association fears that these new proposals would dramatically worsen the already difficult economic situation of the biogas industry and lead to a complete standstill, for all new projects would be seen as uneconomic in the eyes of investors. The association and its members have vigorously campaigned for the existing support scheme and the realisation of the German energy transition. This has already resulted in the political support from the governments of the German federal states: the states recently advised Chancellor Merkel not to change retroactively the legislative framework established for existing installations.

Source: Press releases of the German Biogas Association (in German): [14.2.2013](#), [21.3.2013](#)

**DOUBLE INCENTIVES POSSIBLE FOR FRENCH BIOGAS PRODUCERS**

The French system of feed-in-tariffs for biogas producers has been revised in a way that it now enables producers to get promotion at the same time for both, electricity produced from biogas and biomethane injected into the grid. Before, producers had to choose one or the other form of support. The new legislation aims at preventing problems around the realisation and profitability of some biogas projects as it allows producers to switch between the energy recovery forms according to current demand. Caroline Marchais, Director of ATEE Club Biogaz, is however sceptical on whether the new legislative framework will give any significant push to the industry: according to her, this will promote a minority of the projects being affected by the double recovery but the double value also requires double investments not covered by the current feed-in-tariffs.

Source: [Actu-Environnement](#) (in French)

**REA EXPANDS NEW BIOGAS TRAINING PROGRAMME**

The UK's Renewable Energy Association's (REA) 'Advanced Biogas Learning in Europe' (ABLE) scheme funded by the EU Leonardo programme and run in partnership with the German Biogas and Bioenergy Society (GERBIO) offers accepted candidates the opportunity to gain

experience working in Germany at a biogas plant, laboratory of factory. It is principally aimed at young people looking to develop a 'hands on' career in the renewable energy economy. REA Head of Biogas David Collins and GERBIO partner Michael Köttner managed to add a further seven companies to their list of opportunities, bringing the total to 15. This has been possible mainly due to partnership with the European Biogas Association, agreed at the Leipzig Biogas Conference in February.

"We are very happy to be opening the scheme to new applicants and equally with the progress made to date" said REA Head of Biogas, David Collins. "Germany is the European leader on AD, as well as many other renewable technologies. We have a long way to go to catch up, but budding biogas professionals of the future will be learning from the best on the REA's ABLE programme."

Source: [REA press release](#)

#### CAC NEWS

### ELECTRATHERM'S GREEN MACHINE IMPROVES ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF A BIOGAS PLANT

ElectraTherm together with distributor GB Consulting and EnviTec commissioned an ElectraTherm Green Machine, using the organic Rankine Cycle (OCR) and patented technology, to generate additional power and increase energy efficiency on site in Czech Republic. The machine has accrued more than 2,800 hours with greater than 97% availability. The installation of the Green Machine is the first of its kind to connect the machine at the beginning of the heat loop, providing the Green Machine with higher waste heat temperatures to increase power output, while maintaining proper heat input to the anaerobic digesters. The addition of the machine reduces the onsite electricity needed to reject excess heat through radiator fans. In combination with the electrical output of the Green Machine, this increases the plant efficiency by up to 8%.

Source: [ElectraTherm's press release](#)

#### OTHER BIOGAS NEWS

### GERMANY TO CONTINUE LEADING THE BIOGAS CHARGE

Research and consultancy firm GlobalData has revealed that supportive government policies will see Germany continue to dominate global biogas energy generation for the foreseeable future. According to its latest report, biogas power generation is forecast to increase from 18,244GWh in 2012 to 28,265GWh in 2025.

The US, the second most productive biogas power producing country, is expected to increase generation from a more modest 2012 figure of 9,072 GWh to 20,936 GWh in the same timeframe.

Source: Bioenergy Insight (Jan/Feb 2013, Issue 1, Volume 4, page 12)

## HORSE MEAT CONTAINING READY MEALS BECOME BIOGAS IN SWEDEN

Following the horse meat scandal currently engulfing Europe, a Sweden-based supermarket chain, Ica, is to boost biogas feedstock levels via recalled ready meals. The 'beef lasagne' meals, discovered to contain mainly horse meat, are transported to a recycling station in Angelholm and turned into biogas.

Source: [Bioenergy Insight](#)

## UPDATE ON POLISH AND CZECH BIOGAS PRODUCTION

As of February 2013 there were 31 biogas plants in Poland using agricultural residues. Most of the projects in Poland exist thanks to the subsidies and the attractive loans of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFOŚiGW). In the second call of the Fund, 13 projects have been chosen with a total capacity of 15 MW and a total investment cost of 229.6 Mio PLN (54,9 Mio EUR). At the beginning of 2013 the revised Renewable Energy Law was supposed to come into force; however due to delays in works on the document, the publication was postponed.

Source: [Polish Agency for Agricultural Market](#)

In Czech Republic, biogas made up the following share of electricity on 31.12.2012:

1.6% of the total electricity production came from biogas

Total production of electricity from biogas 1,406 GWh

2.0% of the electricity consumption from biogas

15.9% of all renewables came from biogas

In 2014, Czech Republic may introduce a new feed-in tariff of 65 EUR per 1 MWh for all zero emission technologies, placing renewable energies on the same level with nuclear energy.

Source: [Czech Biogas Association](#)

## PLANNED POLICY CHANGES IN THE UK

Based on the 2012 consultation on the improvements and extensions of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and stakeholders' responses, the UK Government has published a report which includes also policy decisions on biomass sustainability and biomethane. The Government plans to introduce sustainability requirement for solid and gaseous biomass ahead of the EU criteria. The RHI requirements are to be split into two criteria: a greenhouse gas lifecycle emissions target of 125.28kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per MWh of biomass heat generated or below and secondly land criteria. As regards biomethane, the registration rules for biomethane injection plants are planned to be conformed to accreditation requirements by the end of 2013.

To read more: [the UK Government report](#)

## FERTILISER REGULATION AND EoW CRITERIA FOR DIGESTATE



NEWS FROM EU

The last meeting of the Technical Working Group dedicated to the End-of-Waste criteria for biodegradable waste subject to biological treatment was organised on 26 February in Sevilla. Based on the results of the meeting, JRC will conclude the final study. Among other things it was clarified in Sevilla that materials which do not fall under the scope of the EU's EoW criteria, e.g. sewage sludge, may still reach a product status at national level. A few issues including for example the sampling frequency and the method for stability criteria, require still further discussion. A questionnaire will be sent to the participants of the working group in the near future.

As regards the Fertiliser Regulation, the Commission predicts to publish its proposal by the end of the second quarter this year. The final amendments to the draft are currently being made. The Commission's DG Enterprise hopes that DG Environment first establishes the EoW criteria for biodegradable waste defining when waste becomes a product and a fertiliser.

## COMMISSION LAUNCHED A BIOECONOMY OBSERVATORY

The European Commission establishes an observatory, which is a three year project, to map progress and measure the impact of the development of the European Union's bioeconomy. As well as providing data on the size of the bioeconomy and its constituent sectors the observatory should track a number of performance measures, including economic and employment indicators, innovation indicators, and measures of productivity, social wellbeing and environmental quality. It will also provide a "technology watch" and "policy watch", to follow the development of science and technology as well of policies related to the bioeconomy.

Read more [here](#)

## FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR CLEAN FUELS

The Commission published on 28 February guidelines on financial incentives for clean and energy efficient fuels. The Guidelines provide a reference for the Member States on the implantation of demand side measures, they identify best practices and encourage Member States to co-ordinate their activities in order to avoid unnecessary distortion of the Internal Market and maximise their supportive effect on the market uptake of clean vehicles.

Download the guidelines [here](#)

## ILUC DEBATES IN COUNCIL AND PARLIAMENT

The first orientation debate on the Commission's proposal took place in the Energy Council on 22 February. In general, Member States are quite dissatisfied with the proposed measures and targets. A number of country delegates pointed out that not all the crop-based biofuels should be grouped under the same umbrella; the 5% cap on 1. generation biofuels does not make any difference between biofuels that have different GHG balances, e.g. maize-based biomethane and oilseed based biodiesel. Instead of the cap, several Member States would prefer to have binding crop-based iLUC factors. The proposed method of multiple counting and the list of feedstock counting double or quadruple times towards the transport target were also questioned. Some Member States suggested allowing advanced biofuels to count multiple times also towards the overall RED target (20%) and the fuel quality target. A similar debate took place in the Environment Council on 21 March.

Written contributions of [United Kingdom](#), [Denmark](#) and [Poland](#)

In the European Parliament, the MEP rapporteur Corinne Lepage hosted a workshop on 20 February gathering together a variety of stakeholders. In the rapporteur's view, the EU should promote innovative advanced biofuels but a pragmatic and realistic solution on sustainability criteria should be reached. Please find [here](#) the presentations of the speakers including JRC, OECD, IFPRI, several associations and NGOs.

## REVISION OF ENERGY TAXATION

The Irish Presidency has scheduled 4 fiscal attaché group meetings on energy taxation for the first half of 2013. The first meeting took place in January after which the Irish Presidency told EBA that they will be focusing on the minimum taxation rates of energy products (particularly gas products) and taxation of ETS installations during their Presidency period. The Irish attaché was pessimistic about reaching any breakthrough on the dossier this year either. The revision of energy taxation is neither prioritised by the Irishmen nor the upcoming Lithuanian Presidency. The member states are still deeply split in their views about the revised Directive. However, progress or not, the debates on the minimum tax rates of gas products is of great interest to the biogas industry and therefore EBA will continue being in contact with the country delegations in Brussels and encourages its members to do the same with their national governments.

## ENERGY COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON POTENTIAL PROJECTS OF ENERGY COMMUNITY INTEREST (PECI)

### PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- 5 March 2013 - 29 April 2013

The Ministerial Council adopted the Energy Strategy of the Energy Community on 18 October 2012. The aim of the Strategy is to build on the existing national strategies, as well as on the legal obligations that Contracting Parties have committed to within the Energy Community framework.

### PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- [Energy Markets in the European Union in 2011](#) - by the European Commissions
- [Presentations](#) given at IrBEA's National Bioenergy Conference - Utilising Ireland's Natural Resource
- [Presentations](#) given at the workshops organised by ATEE Club Biogaz during the ExpoBiogaz in Lyon
- EREC's [Assessment of the 2011 Progress Reports](#)
- Energy research Centre of the Netherlands' [report on policy options to reduce passenger cars CO2 emissions after 2020](#)

## MAJOR EVENTS ATTENDED BY EBA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>11 February</b>	Workshop 'REACH - out to Biogas, Delft
<b>20 February</b>	Workshop on Sustainable Biofuels: addressing indirect land use change (ILUC), Brussels
<b>26 February</b>	EoW Workshop and working group meeting, Sevilla
<b>5 March</b>	<a href="#">GGG Workshop: Development of Biomethane in Europe, Paris</a>
<b>6 March</b>	RENEXPO Biogas Conference, Arad
<b>20 March</b>	VDI International Biomethane Conference, Frankfurt a.M.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Final Conference of CHP Goes Green "Cities and bio-energy cogeneration"**

19 April, Brussels

**BioGas World 2013**

23-25 April 2013, Berlin, Germany

**UK Biomethane Day 2013**

21 May, Birmingham, UK

**7th Bioenergy Forum**

20-21 June, Rostock, Germany

**21st European Biomass Conference and Exhibition**

3-7 June, Copenhagen, Denmark

**AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2013**

17-19 June, Brussels Belgium - **In collaboration with EBA**

**Study Tour Green Gas Grids**

17-20 June, the Netherlands

**UK AD & Biogas 2013**

3-4 July, NEC Birmingham, UK

**Bioenergy - Exhibition & Conference**

4-6 September, Jyväskylä, Finland

**13th Austrian Biogas Conference**

4-5 December, St. Pölten, Austria